

BESURE Study 2004-2017

The National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) is conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 22 cities in the United States in order to measure HIV prevalence, HIV risk behaviors, HIV testing behaviors, and exposure to prevention services over time among persons at high risk for infection. An NHBS wave has three annual cycles, each focusing on a different group: men who have sex with men (MSM), injection drug users (IDU), and heterosexuals at risk of HIV infection (HET). Participants are recruited using venue-based sampling (VBS) and respondent driven sampling (RDS) methods. They complete a standardized, anonymous survey on social issues, health, and health services and are offered HIV testing and counseling.

The BEhavioral SURveillance REsearch Study, or BESURE, has been conducted in Baltimore since 2004. From 2004 to 2015 BESURE was a participating site of NHBS and is currently a locally funded collaboration site. The Maryland Department of Health funds the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to implement BESURE in the Baltimore-Columbia-Towson metropolitan statistical area. BESURE is a collaboration between the two entities.

The information collected guides HIV prevention, counseling, and testing services in Baltimore. It also helps to improve overall HIV/AIDS surveillance and provide a better understanding of trends in HIV infection in Baltimore and throughout the United States.

Survey methods and sample characteristics, BESURE 2004-2017

| | Wave 1 | Wave 2 | Wave 3 | Wave 4 | Wave 5 |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Men who have sex with men (MSM) | Jun 2004 – Apr 2005 | Jul – Oct 2008 | Aug – Dec 2011 | Jun – Dec 2014 | Jul - Dec 2017 |
| Data collection method | VBS | VBS | VBS | VBS | VBS |
| Total MSM in past year recruited* | 645 | 448 | 404 | 455 | 377 |
| HIV prevalence | 37.7% | 37.5% | 42.6% | 30.5% | 36.9% |
| Injection drug users (IDU) | Aug 2006 – Jan 2007 | Sept – Dec 2009 | Aug – Dec 2012 | Aug – Dec 2015 | 2018 |
| Data collection method | RDS | RDS | RDS | RDS | |
| Total IDU in past year recruited* | 539 | 507 | 620 | 584 | |
| HIV prevalence | 11.9% | 16.2% | 23.2% | 13.4% | |
| Heterosexuals at high risk (HET) | Jul – Aug 2007 | Sept – Dec 2010 | Sept – Dec 2013 | Nov 2016 – Mar 2017 | 2019 |
| Data collection method | VBS | RDS | RDS | RDS | |
| Total recruited* | 310 | 378 | 503 | 412 | |
| HIV prevalence | 3.5% | 6.1% | 6.6% | 6.8% | |

*Completed survey and HIV test

^ No. of people who did not know they had HIV infection divided by the no. of people who tested HIV-positive

Note: Differences in HIV prevalence may be due to sample differences across waves

VBS: Venue based sampling; RDS: Respondent driven sampling

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<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CHSE/Pages/behavioral-surveillance.aspx>

<http://www.besurebaltimore.com>

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National HIV Behavioral Surveillance

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